

Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Miami Laboratory
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

April 27, 2004

TO: Wayne Witzell,
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Dennis Lee,
SEFSC Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for quarter 1, 2004

I am providing you with a summary report (see table) of the incidental take of marine turtles, as well as mammals and sea birds that have been recorded by observers aboard longline vessels for January 1 to March 31, 2004. During the regular 8% coverage there were 3 marine mammals (3-Pilot whales-alive), 46 sea turtles (20-leatherbacks-alive; 26-loggerheads-alive), and 5 seabirds (5-Gulls-dead) recorded by observers.

With reference to a special Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Project during the quarter, the table summary shows there were no marine mammals, 2 sea turtles (2-leatherbacks-alive), and no seabirds recorded by observers.

As you will notice, you have been provided the original Sea Turtle Life History forms associated with the quarter 1 regular longline and the GOM Project coverage. After your review of the forms and any changes you might make, please return the originals to the Observer data files in Room 314. Lastly, I am also providing you with a map that defines the three letter abbreviations of the geographical areas of the Atlantic used by the SEFSC observer program.

Attachments

Incidental Take summary table for first quarter of 2004 (by area, turtle species); Original Sea Turtle Life History Forms and associated turtle photographs; and Map of Atlantic geographical areas.

cc: Cheryl Brown;
Gerry Scott, Jim Bohnsack (cover letters only)

Percent coverage obtained and the incidental take of marine mammals, turtles, and seabirds are provided by geographical area for January 1 - March 31, 2004 for both the 8% regular coverage and the GOM Project. (A-alive; D-dead; LB-leatherback; LH-loggerhead; U-unknown)

| AREA | TOTAL SETS OBSERVED | 8% COVERAGE | TURTLES | | MAMMALS | | BIRDS | |
|--------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------|---|-------|---|
| | | | A LB/LH/U | D LB/LH/U | A | D | A | D |
| CAR-1 | 23(18%) | 10 | 1/ 5/0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GOM-2* | 89(8%) | 87 | 8/ 0/0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FEC-3 | 30(7%) | 32 | 5/ 6/0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAB-4 | 1(1%) | 12 | 1/ 1/0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MAB-5 | 13(13%) | 8 | 0/ 0/0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| SAR-8 | 32(14%) | 18 | 7/14/0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NCA-9 | 3 (8%) | 0 | 0/ 0/0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 191(9%) | 167 | 22/26/0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

Hook effort Summary:

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Hook effort</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|
| CAR | 20,328 |
| GOM* | 61,561 |
| FEC | 14,293 |
| SAB | 804 |
| SAR | 28,848 |
| MAB | 6,799 |
| NCA | 2,895 |
| TOTAL | 135,528 |

Note: * GOM area includes the effort provided below from the GOM PROJECT

| AREA | SETS | COVERAGE | TURTLES | | MAMMAL | | BIRDS | |
|-------|------|----------|---------------|---|--------|---|-------|---|
| | | | A LB/LH/UN | D | A | D | A | D |
| GOM-2 | 40 | 100% | 2/ 0/0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
